

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ACDA-10 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166453

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, US, IN

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH ADMIRAL KHAN'S TALK WITH SECRETARY

1. BANGLADESH DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR ADMIRAL KHAN MET WITH THE SECRETARY JULY 2 FOR A SHORT DISCUSSION OF KHAN'S CONCERNS OVER BDG'S PROBLEMS WITH INDIA. KHAN'S EARLIER MEETINGS WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY AND AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER ARE REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. THE SECRETARY NOTED HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT OF KHAN'S TALK WITH ROBINSON AND KNEW THE NATURE OF BANGLADESHI CONCERNS. HE ASKED WHAT KHAN'S SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WERE AT THE MOMENT. KHAN REFERRED TO CONTINUING BORDER INCURSIONS AND LACK OF PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS OVER FARAKKA BARRAGE NE-
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GOTIATIONS. KHAN REQUESTED THAT THE USG USE ITS GOOD

OFFICES WITH INDIA. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT BANGLADESH COULD COUNT ON DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT IN THE EVENT OF AGGRESSIVE ACTS. THE U.S. WILL NOT TAKE LIGHTLY A CAMPAIGN OF PRESSURE AND WILL MAKE THIS CLEAR. HE SAID THE U.S. WOULD ENCOURAGE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

3. REGARDING MILITARY EQUIPMENT, KHAN SAID BANGLADESH NEEDED EQUIPMENT FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES AND DID NOT WANT TO CHANGE THE MILITARY BALANCE. ASKED IF BANGLADESH HAD

REQUESTED EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, KHAN SAID THERE HAD BEEN DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITAIN, BUT THAT FINANCES WERE A MAJOR PROBLEM. BANGLADESH WANTED TO CONTINUE TO DEVOTE ITS RESOURCES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THEREFORE NEEDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON CREDIT TERMS. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, KHAN SAID THE BDG HAD NOT ASKED CHINA FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IN CLOSING THIS PORTION OF THE DISCUSSION, THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER. HE REITERATED THAT THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN THE CONTINUED SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF BANGLADESH, AND THAT THE MAJOR THING HE WANTED TO CONVEY TO KHAN WAS THAT BANGLADESH HAD A FRIEND HERE. ROBINSON

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